A DISCOURSE concerning the

FISHERY

WITHIN THE

British Seas,

And other His

Majesties Dominions,

And more Especially, as it Relates to the

Trade of the COMPANY of the Royal Fishery of England:

OFFERED TO

Consideration in Order to Subscriptions for Raising a Stock, for carrying on the Affairs thereof, upon the Terms Proposed.

London, Printed for the Company of the Royal Fishery of *ENGLAND*, 1695.

F6642.30

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
GIFT OF
DANIEL B. FEARING
30 JUNE 1915

A Diſcourſe concerning the Fiſhery *within the* Britiſh *Seas; And other His Majeſties Dominions, And more Eſpecially as it relates to the Trade of the Company of the* Royal Fiſhery *of England; offered to Conſideration, in order to Subſcriptions for Raiſing a Stock, for carrying on the Affairs thereof, upon the Terms Propoſed,* viz.

IT is not to be doubted, but that His Majeſty of Great *Brittain* and *Ireland* is the Abſolute Lord of the Seas flowing about, as an inſeparable Appendant of the *Brittiſh* Empire. But, if any be to ſeek of Satisfaction therein, ſuch may have recourſe to a Treatiſe Written about the Year 1635. by that Famous and Learned Antiquary, *John Selden*; Entituled, *Mare Clauſum*, &c. Tranſlated into *Engliſh*, in *Anno*, 1663. and Publiſhed under the Title of *Mare Clauſum*: Or, *The Right and Dominion of the Sea.*

If that be too Voluminous, the ſame is Epitomized in a leſſer Volume, and Entituled, *His Majeſties Propriety and Dominion in the* Brittiſh *Seas, Aſſerted.* And the ſame is yet more ſuccinctly Evinced, by that Learned Knight, Sir *John Borroughs* (ſometime Keeper of the Records of the *Tower* of *London*) who hath not only cleared the Right, by Records, Hiſtories, and the

Municipal Laws of this Kingdom, in his Treatiſe written in *Anno*, 1633. But alſo other Important matters relating thereunto, Publiſhed in *Anno*, 1651. A Treatiſe worthy every *Engliſh* Mans peruſal, who is deſirous to be Informed of, and concerned in the **Fiſhery** Affairs.

But this is not our preſent Undertaking, farther than to ſet forth what Advantages may accrue to His Majeſty and theſe Kingdoms, by a ſpeedy and effectual ſetting upon, and engaging in the ſaid Trade: Which has been by many Treatiſes recommended to the People of theſe Nations, from the Conſideration of the Advantage and Facility of undertaking the ſame: As likewiſe, from the Abſolute neceſſity thereof, in order to the Safety and Well-being both of the King and People. Which ſaid Treatiſes, or ſome of them, may be had at ſeveral Bookſellers Shops in this City and *Weſtminſter*; And, in order to the readier finding of them out, the Titles of ſome of them are herein after mentioned, *viz.*

Englands *way to Win Wealth, and to Employ Ships and Mariners*; *Writtten by* Tobias Gentleman *and Printed in the Tear* 1614.

Brittains Buſs, *Written by* E. S. *and Printed* Anno, 1615. *Reprinted.* 1630.

Sir Walter Rawleighs *Obſervations, touching Trade and Commerce with the* Hollanders *and other Nations, in his Addreſs to His Majeſty, King* James *the* 1ſt. 1618.

Gerrard Malynes *Treatiſe, called* Lex Mercatoria, *in his* 47th. *Chapter under the Title of, The Fiſhing Trade, Anno.* 1636.

The

The Seas Magazine opened, Written by a Perſon of Honour, Printed } 1653.

The Trade and Fiſhing of Great Brittain *diſplayed, by Captain* John Smith. } 1661.

The Royal Trade of **Fiſhing**. *Printed Anno,* 1662.

John Keymor's *Obſervations made upon the* Dutch **Fiſhing**, *about the Year* 1601. *Printed for Sir* Edward Ford, *Anno.* } 1664.

The **Royal Fiſhing** *Revived*, &c. 1670.

A Diſcourſe of the Fiſhery, by Sir Roger Le-Strange, *Anno.* } 1674.

A Diſcourſe of Salt and Fiſhery, Written by John Collins, } 1682.

Theſe things Premiſed, We ſhall in the next place ſet forth what has been done in order to the Promoting and Encouraging this Trade, *viz.*

His late Majeſty King *CHARLES* the Second, (That an Affair of ſuch a National Concern might be the better promoted) was pleaſed by his Letters Patents under the great Seal of *England*, bearing Date the 25*th.* day of *September*, in the 29*th.* Year of His Reign; To Conſtitute His Royal Highneſs *James* Duke of *York*, *Thomas* Earl of *Danby* (now Duke of *Leeds*) and ſeveral other Perſons of Honour, and others therein Named; and ſuch others as thereafter from time to time ſhould be admitted into their Company and Society, to be Traders and Adventurers with them; To be One body Politick and Corporate in Deed and in Name, By the Name of **The Company of the Royal Fiſhery of England**; To have perpetual Succeſſion: Thereby alſo giving and granting unto the ſaid

ſaid Company and their Succeſſors, divers Beneficial Clauſes, Powers, Priviledges and Immunities; In order to the better Government of the ſaid Company, and Management of their Affairs: An Abſtract whereof here followeth, *viz.*

To purchaſe Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, and to diſpoſe thereof to the value of One Thouſand Pounds *per Annum.*

To have and uſe a Common Seal in and for all cauſes and buſineſſes of the ſaid Company.

To Aſſemble and meet together for carrying on their Affairs; And, particularly To Elect and Appoint a Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and 12. Committees Yearly for a Court of Aſſiſtants: Who, or any 3. or more of them, (whereof the Governour, Sub-Governour, or Deputy-Governour, to be always one) are thereby Authorized and Impowered, according to ſuch Rules, Orders and Directions, as ſhould from time to time be made and given unto them, by the General Court of the ſaid Company; And for want of ſuch Orders, Rules and Directions, from time to time To Manage, Govern and Direct all the Affairs and Buſineſs of the ſaid Company, and all their Miniſters and Servants whatſoever; And Generally To Act and Do in all matters and things whatſoever as they ſhould judge neceſſary and Expedient to the well Ordering and Government of the ſaid Company, and the Improvement of their joynt Stock and Trade: And To Do, Enjoy, Perform and Execute, all the ſaid Powers, Authorities, Priviledges, Acts and Things, in like Manner, to all intents and purpoſes, as if the ſame were done at, and by a General Court of the ſaid Company.

That

That before they entred upon the Execution of their reſpective Offices and Employments, they were to take their Corporal Oaths, for their true and Faithful Execution of their Reſpective Truſts and Places, before the Lord High Chancellour of *England*, or Chancellour of His Majeſties Court of Exchequer. After which, the ſaid Court of Aſſiſtants, or any 3. of them as aforeſaid, are Authorized to Adminiſter an Oath of Fidelity to the ſucceeding Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and any Subſequent Members of the ſaid Company; and to all Inferiour Officers, Miniſters and Servants, that ſhall be Choſen and Employed under them in the Service of the ſaid Company.

The ſaid Court of Aſſiſtants, or any 7. or more of them as aforeſaid (as often as they ſhall find occaſion) may Summon a General Court of the ſaid Company; and no Aſſembly or Meeting of the ſaid Company ſhall be deemed or accounted a General Court of the ſame Company, unleſs the Governour, Sub-Governour, or Deputy-Governour, Six of the Committees and Five other Members of the ſaid Company (at leaſt) be preſent.

That ſuch General Court may admit other Perſons to be Members of the ſaid Company; and may Increaſe, Contract or divide their joynt Stock, as they ſhall think fit.

And may make, Ordain and Eſtabliſh, ſuch, and ſo many Good, Neceſſary, and Reaſonable Laws, Ordinances, Orders, and Conſtitutions, as to them, or the greateſt part of them, ſhall ſeem neceſſary and Convenient, for the good Government of the ſaid Company, and their Affairs: And the ſame Laws, *&c.*

may

may put in Ure and Execution, and at their pleaſure Revoke, Alter, and make New.

They may impoſe and ſet ſuch Mulcts and Amerciaments upon the Breakers of ſuch Laws, as to them, in their Diſcretions ſhall be thought reaſonable, which ſhall be put in Execution by the Court of Aſſiſtants; To and for the uſe of the Company, &c. Or, they may Remit, Pardon or Releaſe the ſame, upon the parties Submiſſion, at their Will and Pleaſures.

Upon Conviction of any Miſdemeanour, they may remove Offenders, and chooſe others in their Places, at ſuch General Court of the Company.

That the Members of the Company may, from time to time, Grant, Transfer, and Aſſign, all, or any part of their reſpective Stocks in the ſaid Company; and the Procede and Profit thereof.

They may from time to time, Build, Rigg, Man, Victual and Set out to Sea, ſuch, and ſo many Doggers, Buſſes, and other Fiſhing Veſſels, as by the Company or Court of Aſſiſtants ſhall be thought fit and convenient.

They may Fiſh in, and upon all the Coaſts, Eſtuaries, In-lets, Creeks, Arms of the Sea, Nooks, Lakes, and Publick Rivers, of, within, and belonging to His Majeſties Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, or any of them; or any other of His Majeſties Dominions, whereof the Fiſhings are not already Granted, Appropriated, or belonging to ſome other particular or private Perſon or Perſons, Bodies Politick or Corporate: And likewiſe in, and upon the Main Sea, or any part thereof.

They have Granted unto them, free and full Liberty, to carry and Transport their Fish, and Oyle made of Fish, to all Ports, Places and Markets, both in *England* and beyond the Seas; and also to Sell the same there, for ready Money, or by way of Barter and Exchange for any other Commodities.

They are Impowered to Erect Store-Houses, Granaries, Ware-Houses and Work-Houses; and to dry and amend their Nets, and make Ropes; and also to build and make Wharfs and Docks, in, upon, and out of any of the Wastes, Commons, or Waste-Grounds of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, adjoyning unto, or upon any Publick Rivers or Seas, within any of His Majesties Dominions, without paying or rendring any Rent or Duty whatsoever unto His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors for the same.

Also, that all and every the Masters, Skippers and Steersmen of the several Doggers, Busses, and other Fishing-Vessels of the Company, and their Ships Crews, Mariners, Fisher-Men, and others Employed by the said Company, in and about their said Fishery; as well Foreigners, as Natives and Subjects, *&c.* And during their respective Employments, shall not be Impannel'd, Summoned, or Sworn, or compelled by any Sheriff, Bayliff, or other Officer of His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, to serve on any Juries or Inquests, at *Westminster*, the Assizes, Sessions, or Elsewhere.

They have also Granted to them by His said Majesty, Twenty Pounds for each and every respective Dogger which they then had, & were owners of; and which within, and during the term and space of 7. Years from the date of the said Patent, they, & their

Succeſſors, ſhould Build, or cauſe to be Built in *England*, or any other His Majeſties Dominions; The ſame to be Paid Quarterly, out of the Cuſtomes within the Port of *London*, &c. without any other or further Warrant or Direction, from His Majeſty, His Heirs or Succeſſors, in that behalf, *&c.*

They have alſo Granted unto them, and their Succeſſors, All and ſingular Priviledges in the City of *London*, as fully and freely as any Company of Merchants Eſtabliſhed by Letters Patents, or Charters theretofore Granted by His Majeſty, or any of His Predeceſſors, at preſent do or may have, Uſe or Enjoy; Alſo, That all and ſingular Admirals, Vice-Admirals, General Commanders, Captains, Mayors, Sheriffs, Juſtices of the Peace, Cuſtomers, Collectors, Searchers, Controlers, Wayters, and all other Officers, Miniſters, Liege Men, and Subjects of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors whatſoever, from time to time and at all times thereafter ſhall be, in and by all things Ayding, Helping and Aſſiſting, unto the ſaid Company, and their Succeſſors, their Factors, Agents and Servants, and every of them, in the Execution and Enjoyment of the Premiſes, as well on Land as by Sea, whenſoever they or any of them ſhall be thereunto deſired, as they tender His Majeſties good Will and Pleaſure, and will Anſwer the contrary at their Peril.

And laſtly, His Majeſty doth Grant, That theſe His Majeſties Letters Patents, and all & ſingular the Grants, Clauſes, and things therein contained, and expreſſed, ſhould be, and continue firm, valid, good, ſufficient, and effectual in the Law; and ſhould be Conſtrued, Reputed,

puted and taken, as well in the meaning, as to the Words and Expreſſions of the ſame, moſt Favourably, benignely and beneficially, to and for the beſt benefit and advantage of the ſaid Company and their Succeſſors: Any Omiſſion, Incertainty, Defect, Imperfection, or Contrariety in the ſaid Letters Patents contained; Or any Law, Statute, Act, Ordinance, Proclamation, Proviſon, or Reſtriction, or other cauſe matter or thing whatſoever, to the contrary thereof, in any wiſe Notwithſtanding, *&c.* As in and by the ſaid Letters Patents (Relation being thereunto had for the better certainty thereof) may more fully and at large appear.

Now, A Few things touching the Proceedings of the Company thereupon; Briefly, viz.

THE Company thus Eſtabliſhed, Divers particular Members thereof Advanced and Paid in thereupon (at Firſt) a Stock of 10980 *l.* and after that, about 1600 *l.* more; All which was laid out, in Buying, Equipping, and ſetting forth Fiſhing Veſſels, *&c.* and Employing them in Proſecuting the ſaid **Fiſhery** Affairs. But that Undertaking was rendred In-effectual, and their ſaid Stock Exhauſted and Conſumed: [Not by any thing ariſing from the nature of the thing it ſelf (as is apparent by the Experience the ſaid Company had in having taken and imported in One of their Doggers, in a Voyage of Three Weeks, Thirty Two Thouſand Cods; and pro-

 portionably

portionably thereunto, in ſeveral other of their Veſſels. And, by the Advantage made of the like undertaking by our Neighbours; which ſhall be demonſtrated by ſome Narrative thereof, with particular Enumeration of their Succeſſes, in what follows] But, By that ill Juncture of Affairs, wherein the *Dutch* and *Spaniards* were Engaged in War with the *French*, who ſeized the Veſſels and goods of the Company, as *Dutch*, Being ſome, or moſt of them *Dutch*-Built, and Mann'd by *Dutch*-Men: And principally, Becauſe The Stock was not ſufficient to Support ſo great an Undertaking, in caſe of any Miſ-adventure. Whereupon, The proſecuting of the ſaid Affair and Trade was under ſuſpence for ſome time, and not thought fit to be Engaged in, but with a more conſiderable Stock: which was afterwards endeavoured, By a New Subſcription Deſigned and Agreed by the then Company, to the Value of Sixty Thouſand Pounds; But, By Reaſon of the Death of His ſaid late Majeſty, King *Charles* the 2d. and the Troubles Enſuing, the ſame was thought fit to be ſuſpended for ſome farther time. And, The Company, about 3. Years ſince (conceiving it might be ſeaſonably undertaken) Aſſembled for putting their former Deſign in Execution; And, Finding Encouragement from the readineſs of divers Perſons to joyn therein, upon certain Propoſals for a Subſcription; ſuch, as (in caſe of like Loſſes of ſome few Veſſels) the ſaid Affair might notwithſtanding be carried on, without the diſcouragement of being to ſeek of a Stock ready: They have been waiting ever ſince for a fitting ſeaſon, wherein they might Humbly Addreſs themſelves to His Majeſty, and both the Honourable Houſes of Par-

Parliament, for their further Encouraging this undertaking. And in the Interim, Have ſpent their time, and taken much pains in and about the conſideration and preparation of ſuch a Conſtitution, Laws and Rules, for Management and Governing of their Affairs, And Framing ſuch Propoſals of Terms and Conditions, for Admitting Perſons into the ſaid Company, to be Members, Traders and Adventurers with them therein, as, (by diſcourſing others) they hope will be ſufficiently encouraging to Subſcriptions for the raiſing ſuch Stock for that purpoſe; And, whereby His Majeſty and the Parliament may be the better ſatisfied, That Perſons of Honour, Intereſt, Eſtates, and Publick Spirits are joyntly become engaged to carry on the ſame, as far as the nature of ſuch an Affair will admit. The Company have thereupon thought fit to cauſe, as well the ſaid Letters Patents, as the ſaid Conſtitution, and terms of Subſcription, to be fairly ingroſs'd at large in Books, and Lodged in convenient Places within the City of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, to be Peruſed, Conſidered, and Subſcribed accordingly.

And, Foraſmuch as, All have not the conveniency of reſorting to ſuch Places, And, That the Affair may become as National as may be; The Company have thought fit, likewiſe, To prepare, and cauſe the Abſtracts thereof to be printed and publiſhed; To the end, all Perſons may have the Contents thereof before them, and may apply themſelves to make ſuch Subſcriptions (at the Places Appointed for that purpoſe) as they ſhall think fit, on thoſe Terms: Which are as followeth, *viz.*

First,

First, The Abſtract of the ſaid Conſtitution: Entituled,

A Conſtitution, Model, or Frame and Method for Government and Managing of the Trade and Affairs of The Company of the Royal Fiſhery of *England*; *As alſo ſome Rules and Laws, neceſſary to be obſerved by the Perſons concern'd in the Improvement of the Stock*, &c.

Sect. 1. THAT the Chief Government of the Company, ſhall be in, and conſiſt of A Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and 12. Committees (whereof 4. to be called Directors, and 8. Maſters) And alſo of 15. Aſſiſtants, *viz.* To each of them, One. Alſo, 8. Wardens, and 25. Commiſſioners or Agents for *Scotland* and *Ireland*; And as many of the other Members of the Company as ſhall from time to time be agreed to be admitted; who, or any 15. or more of them, (together with the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and their Reſpective Aſſiſtants, or One of them, to be preſent; 5. or more of the Committees, 5. or more of the Aſſiſtants, and 5. or more of the other Members of the Company) are to have the chief Power of making Laws, and ordering the whole Affairs of the Company, in their General Courts.

Sect 2. That there ſhall be a Court of Aſſiſtants, to Conſiſt of The Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-

ty-Governour; the 12. Committees, and their 15. Aſſiſtants; who, or any 7. or more of them (whereof the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, or their reſpective Aſſiſtants to be always One: 3. of the ſaid Committees, and 3. of the ſaid Aſſiſtants) are to have the chief Directing and Managing of the Affairs of the Company, By their Orders: And, For want of ſuch Orders, may Do and Execute all things, as the general Court may.

Sect. 3. That for the more diſtinct and Regular Management of the ſaid Affairs; The ſaid Court of Aſſiſtants are divided into 4. Chambers, *viz.*

(1.) *The Fiſhery-Chamber*; Which is to conſiſt of The Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governor, and their reſpective Aſſiſtants, or One of them; One Director and his Aſſiſtant, 2. Maſters and their Aſſiſtants, and 2. Wardens: Who, or any 3. or more of them to be a *Quorum*, are to Act and Execute by Rules and Inſtructions under the Seal of the Company, and not otherwiſe.

(2.) *The Stock or Store-Chamber*, To conſiſt of like Number, and to Act by like Inſtructions.

(3.) *The Treaſury or Caſh Chamber*, To conſiſt of like Number, and to Act by like Inſtructions.

(4.) *The Accompt-Chamber*, To conſiſt of like Number, and to Act by like Inſtructions.

Sect. 4. There ſhall be other 28. Members of the Company, who ſhall be called Agents, or Officers, and be employed in the reſpective 4. Chambers, as they ſhall be directed by the Court of Aſſiſtants.

Sect. 5. That the Nomination and Election of the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and

12. Committees ſhall be in, and by the general Court Annually; Save that not above 5. of them ſhall be removed in any one Year but for juſt Cauſes expreſt, &c. The 8. Wardens, and other Agents, Officers, or Commiſſioners, for *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, to be Nominated by the Court of Aſſiſtants, or Sixteen of them.

Sect. 6. That within 20. days after Publication of Subſcriptions of One Hundred and Fifty Thouſand Pounds, A General Court ſhall be called, for Election of a Sub-Governour, or Deputy-Governour, and 4. Committees, by the New Subſcribers: And, afterwards, Elections to be made on the 30*th.* of *November* Yearly: wherein not above 5. Committees to be removed as aforeſaid.

Sect. 7. The Articles, Termes or Conditions, touching the Admitting of Perſons into the Company, Are confirmed, as a part of the Conſtitution, Inviolably to be obſerved.

Sect. 8. That all Subſcribers who ſhall not be choſen for Managers, &c. Shall be denominated as Traders or Adventurers; And their reſpective ſhares both as to Profit and Loſs, Yearly ſtated and determined, as other the Stock of the Company.

Sect. 9. That no Member of the Company after the 30*th. November* next-after Subſcriptions are compleated, ſhall have any Vote in Elections, or making Laws, &c. who ſhall not have Five Hundred Pounds Subſcribed, &c. in the Stock: Nor any Perſon be admitted a Member of the Court of Aſſiſtants, who ſhall not have One Thouſand Pound Subſcribed, &c.

Sect. 10.

Sect. 10. One Tenth part of the clear neat Profits is appointed to be ſet apart for bearing the Charges of the Company, Court of Aſſiſtants and 4. Chambers, *&c.* Alſo to pay Salleries, *&c.* to the Managing-Members, Officers or Servants: And the diſtributions and proportions of each are thereby ſettled.

Sect. 11. The Accompts of Profit and Loſs are to be Yearly ſtated, by the Officers in the Accompt-Chamber: Each Year to end on the 10*th.* of *June.* The Court of Aſſiſtants are to Examine and Report the ſame to the general Court, on the 10*th.* of *September* following, And Nine of them to ſign the brief Account thereof; And each ones ſhare of profits to be paid amongſt the Perſons concerned.

Sect. 12. In caſe of Loſs in any one Year, The Stock is to be made good out of the next, before any Dividend or Apportionment to Managers, Officers, *&c.* Save that, Servants Sallaries or Wages of 30 *l. per Annum* and under, may be advanced out of the Stock, and Re-imburſed out of the next Years profits; And in caſe the profits of any firſt Years ſhall not Amount to 100 *l.* each ſhare, the ſame ſhall alſo be made up out of the After-years profits aſſigned for that purpoſe.

Sect. 13. Mentions, In what caſes Perſons may be diſmiſt their Offices and Employments; And, that the general Court or Court of Aſſiſtants Judgment ſhall be Final for the determination thereof.

Sect. 14. Sets the Fines on ſuch as ſhall abſent themſelves from their attendance when Summoned, Or upon Adjournments; Or for not attending ſo many Hours as ſhall be agreed upon: Unleſs in caſe of Corporal

Illneſs, or Licence from their reſpective Chambers.

Sect. 15. Directs the Cuſtody of the Larger Seal, as alſo of the Letters Patents, Deeds, Evidences of Lands granted to the Company, to be kept Locked up in the Treaſury Chamber, under two Locks; whereof the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and Director, to have the Keys of One, and their reſpective Aſſiſtants of the other: Who are to produce the ſame upon all occaſions of the Company or Court of Aſſiſtants. Alſo, that the Truſtees, And each Chamber, The Secretary of the Company, And the reſpective Commiſſioners or Agents for *Scotland*, and *Ireland* to have one of the leſſer Seals, to be uſed by them reſpectively in the Companies Service.

Sect. 16. If any differences ſhall ariſe Between the Members of the Court of Aſſiſtants, or ſeveral Chambers relating to the Companies Affairs, They are to be determined by the general Court, *&c.* And the refuſers to ſubmit thereto, to be diſmiſt their Offices and Employments.

Sect. 17. The Seven Truſtees are named, And 3. of the other Aſſiſtants; The other 5. Aſſiſtants are to be Elected by them, Out of ſuch as ſhall become Subſcribers to the New Stock of the Company: Their after-Nomination and Succeſſion is alſo agreed to be in, by, and amongſt themſelves, or the Major part of the whole Fifteen.

Sect. 18. The Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, Committees, Aſſiſtants, And all Subſcribers, before they be admitted into any Truſt, or Office in the Company, are to declare their approbation of, and acquieſceing in the Conſtitution, And all after-

after-Conſtitutions, Laws and Rules of the Company; as is more at large therein expreſſed.

Secondly. The Abſtract of the forementioned Articles, Terms, or Conditions, touching Subſcriptions: Entituled,

Articles, Terms or Conditions upon which All and Singular, Perſon and Perſons of what Quality ſo ever within the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *&c. may be admitted into the Company of the* Royal Fiſhery of England, *or be Traders or Adventurers with them.*

1. THAT whoſoever ſhall Subſcribe, and pay in any ſum or ſums of Money towards a Joynt Stock for carrying on the Trade of the ſaid Company, ſhall be Admitted into the ſame; And have and receive all the Benefits and Advantages thereof, Subject to the Conſtitution, Laws and Rules of the ſaid Company: And theſe Articles, Terms, and Conditions, &c.

2. That the Sum deſigned to be at preſent Subſcribed, be *Three Hundred Thouſand Pounds.* Whereof *One Hundred Thouſand Pounds* by the ſurviving Patentees, their Heirs and Aſſigns, and the other preſent Members: And *Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds* more by other perſons. The ſame to be paid into the Treaſury of the ſaid Company, in manner following, *viz.* The firſt Tenth part thereof to be paid within *Thirty*

Dayes from and after Notice or Publication of the compleating the Subſcriptions of the ſaid 300000 l. or of 150000 l. at leaſt, in part thereof. One Tenth part more within 3. Months next after their reſpective firſt Payments: And the other Remaining Eight Tenth parts, By Eight equal next ſucceſſive Quarterly Payments.

3. That One Tenth part of each Sum ſo Subſcribed, ſhall be appropriated to and for the uſe of the ſaid Truſtees, And of ſuch other Perſons as they ſhall judge have heretofore been, or may hereafter be uſeful for, or in promoting the Intereſt and Service of the Company, without Accompt. So as the ſame nevertheleſs ſhall be and remain in the Stock, for carrying on the Trade thereof: And the remaining Nine parts, To and for the Sole uſe and benefit of the Reſpective Subſcribers, their Executors, Adminiſtrators, and Aſſigns.

4. That whatſoever further Sums ſhall, at any time hereafter, be thought fit by the Company to be Subſcribed and paid in, for increaſing the ſaid Stock, ſhall be in like manner ſubject to the payment of the like Tenth part, &c. for, or toward the Re-imburſement of the Subſcribers ſaid Tenth part of the ſaid 300. Thouſand Pounds.

5. That whoſoever ſhall Subſcribe and pay in his firſt Payment, and ſhall not make his ſecond, or any after Payments, by the reſpective times before Limited, ſhall forfeit his firſt payment to the uſe of the Company; and have Credit only for ſuch after payments as he ſhall make.

6. That all ſhares or ſums amounting to 50 l. and

Assignments thereof, shall be Entred and Registred and Certificates thereof, Exemplyfied under the Sea be given for the same, to such Persons as shall desir it.

7. That no Person shall be hereafter admitted a Member of the Company, unless he shall at the time of his Subscription, declare his approbation of, and submitting to these Articles, and engage himself to observe and keep the same Inviolably: And also All such Constitutions, Laws and Rules of the Company as they have or shall make for the Management and Regulation of their Trade, pursuant to the Letters Patents, and the present Constitution.

Thirdly, For the present further Encouragement of all Persons that shall engage herein; The Company hath also thought fit to cause to be subjoyned, A Brief Account of what they find written by several Persons in Commendation of such an Undertaking, As well for the Honour, Strength and Security of his Majesty, as the Private Advantages of the particular Persons Subscribing: Grounded especially on an Estimate of the good Success of our Neighbours, in such an Undertaking; who have Experienced, and Proclaimed this **Fishery** to Over-Ballance in Riches and Glory The Golden Mines of the *Indies:* which, carries with it the virtue of a Demonstration to such as shall Consider the same: Which Accompt thereof hath been collected and tendred to the Company, and hath been also Examined, Considered and Allowed by them, under the Title following, *viz.*

Some

Some Preliminary Considerations and Advertisements towards Inducing and Encouraging, The Company of the Royal Fishery of *England*, &c. *By a joynt Stock to carry on the Trade and Affairs thereof*, viz.

I. THE Adavntages thereof may have Demonstration and Evidence, By the great Power, Wealth and Riches, which others have arrived unto thereby; In Multitudes of Ships and Sea-men Employed therein, *&c.*

(1.) In Shipping, which is Estimated to be at least 10000. Vessels, enployed in Fishing and Trading therewith.

(2.) In Marriners, and Persons employed thereby; computed by amoderate proportion of Ten for each Vessel, (one with another) which comes to at least One Hundred Thousand Persons, besides Men of War.

(3.) In Towns and Fortifications: upon which vast sums of Money have been Expended, to their strength and glory.

(4.) In Power abroad; whereby they have gained other Considerable Countries, Islands and Dominions: Even in both the *Indies*.

II. Their Wealth also is considerable, in the particulars following, *viz.*

(1.) Their Publick Revenue, consisting of at least 300000 *l. per Annum*, by the Sole Customes of Herring, Besides by all other Fishings and Trade.

(2.) Their Trade by Fish, Enables them to Deal and

and Truck with all Nations for their Commodities, and bring away their Moneys.

(3.) Their private Wealth Advanced to many Millions Yearly, amongſt their Merchants, Artificers, *&c.* By the Fiſhing Trade only.

(4.) Their Proviſions and Stores of all ſorts, Sufficient for ſupply both of themſelves in War and Peace; and of their Neighbours, to great advantage, *&c.*

Whereas, on the Contrary,

(1.) We have not one Ship of War Built or Maintained thereby.

(2.) Nor Marriners bred up, or very few comparatively, of equal Skill, Hardineſs or Strength, for Labour and Service.

(3.) Nor Towns nor Fortifications, But all our Fiſhing Towns almoſt decayed.

(4.) Nor Trade by Fiſh Conſiderable, but Buy, and are ſupplyed by our Neighbours at ſo dear Rates, as none but Perſons of great Eſtates can eat Fiſh, *&c.*

(5.) The Decay of many Manufactures relating to that Trade, *viz.* Of Sail-Cloth, Ropes, Cables, Ancors, Nets, *&c.*

(6.) The Conſumption of our Coyn ſent abroad, for theſe neceſſaries, *&c.* which, by this Trade would be prevented, and Coin exceedingly increaſed, *&c.*

Queſt. If it be Demanded: What advantages may be made to His Majeſty by His undertaking, Incouraging and Protecting this Fiſhery Trade, in Future, within and upon his own Dominions, *&c.*

Anſ.

Answer. In general, By this His Majesty may be Rendred the the Greatest Monarch in the World, For Command and Wealth.

2. All the forementioned Advantages made by others may be ours; and we become the most Opulent and Flourishing Nation under the Heavens.

In Particular, we should be provided with,

1. Increase of Ships and Multitudes of Marriners, and those of the most skilful; And hardiest for Labour, Strength, and Courage.

2. Our Towns and Fortifications, Especially such as have been destroyed, or neglected through the Decay of the Fishery and Manufactures, will become Re-edified, and Populated.

3. Our Power Abroad as well as at Home will be upheld, And new Territories planted, and secured against Attempts or Conquests by Forreigners.

4. Our Publick Revenues Augmented, Even to a sufficiency of preserving His Majesties Sovereignity and Dominion of these Seas against all Encroachments.

5. Our Trade will be vastly spread and encreased, in all parts of the World, by the Fish wherewith His Majesties Seas and Dominions do abound: Even to many unknown, or at least untraded parts.

6. Our private Trade will afford vast Wealth to our Merchants, employ our Poor and Idle People in the Manufactures attending this Trade; which will also both Cloath and Feed them: For, Their Earnings will

will enable them to buy both, &c. and ſave the vaſt collections made every Year for their maintenance in Idleneſs and Sloth.

7. We may become the Mart of all Trade; and Furniſhed at all times with Magazines, and Stores of all ſorts both for War and Peace: For our ſelves and our Neighbors, &c. Being better Scituated for Markets than any other Trading-Nation whatſoever: Having this Additional Staple Commodity to our other Manufactures, wherewith to procure the ſame, &c.

Queſt. If it be Inquired, How ſhall this be diſpoſed and Accompliſhed ſo as to Prevent former Miſcarriages and Diſcouragements?

Anſw. 1. By making a preſent Entrance upon this Trade, By **The Company of the Royal Fiſhery of England**, &c. And incourageing ſuch as ſhall contrive and diligently promote the ſame.

2. By a Large Stock propoſed to be advanced by Subſcriptions, for carrying on the ſame, to the utmoſt Extent it will bear.

3. By His Majeſties and the Parliaments further Grants of Aide, Countenance and Encouragements to the Company; Such as may be propounded with little or no Diminution to his Majeſties preſent Revenues, or Grievance to the People.

4. By Nobles, Members of Parliament, and Council, Subſcribing and Countenancing Subſcriptions for the inlargeing this Stock, in their reſpective Countreys.

Obj. If it be objected: 'Tis a time of War, And a Stock may be ſoon loſt if it ſhould be now undertaken.

Answ. 1. It may be hoped the War will have an end. But,

2. There are ſeveral things requiſite to be prepared and provided: And ſeveral Manufactures, Relating to the Trade, and to be Erected, And Perſons to be Trained up and imployed therein, for ſome time, before it can be ſet on Foot (after the Stock is Provided) in which the Stock, as it comes in gradually, will be improved, for the preſent to the Adventurers Advantage, for their Encouragement to begin the ſame.

3. There are ſeveral Fiſhing Places ſo Scituated, as that they may be made uſe of very profitably, without conſiderable if any Hazard, Loſs or Damage; for that, Some Veſſels will ſeldom need to Lye or Labour out of ſight and protection of our own Shores.

4. If ſome Veſſels ſhould be Loſt, The Stock being great, and managed by a Corporation for a joynt Accompt, The Damage would ſcarce be felt; and ſoon Recovered in ſo gainful a Trade.

5. A ſmall Convoy or Guard, on ſuch Coaſts will ſecure them.

6. The Letters Patents provide for Guards and Convoys.

Obj. We cannot Build our Veſſels, or Sail them, nor Manage our Affairs to that Advantage, that our Neighbours can, *&c.*

Anſ. 1. Many ſuch Objections have been caſt in, and probably will be revived to diſcourage the undertaking; But, Satisfaction may be given touching thoſe Vulgar Errors, were it Seaſonable to expoſe the Methods and Ways which the Company have under Con-

Conſideration, for obviating of them: And the ſame is in a great Meaſure already done, By Sir *Roger Le Strange*, in his forementioned Treatiſe.

2. It is the Nations Intereſt to Aſſiſt and Encourage the undertaking by ſuch means as have been ſuggeſted already from the Letters Patents; And which we are well Aſſured the Parliament will Super-add to Our Stock, for the rendring our Charge in Building, *&c.* as eaſie as may be.

3. The Parliament (in and by the Act for ſettling the Duty of Salt on His Majeſty) hath already provided for allowance of our having the Charge on Salt to be Repayed, *viz.* 2 *s.* 6*d per* Barrel for all that ſhall be Exported: Beſides, what hath been further done by ſeveral other Acts of Parliament formerly made concerning the Fiſhery, whereby the Company may be Enabled to out-do them in all Points Relating to that Matter.

Queſt. What will be the Ordinary Charge of Building and Equipping a Fiſhing Veſſel of about 70. Tun for the firſt Year; and ſo, afterwards for 20. Years, in Repairing and Amending the ſame: And alſo the ordinary annual Profits thereof, over and above the Charges, including Victuals, *&c.* for each Fiſhing Seaſon?

Anſ. None may preſume on what depends on Gods Providence and Bleſſing in the prudent Managing of this Affair, more than of other Martime and Merchantly Adventures. But, Computing the particulars by the Ordinary Profit and Loſs from others obſervations and Experience, It may be Reaſonably expected Such Enquiries may be thus Reſolved, *viz.*

	l.	s.	d.
First, The Charge of first Building, Setting out, and Wages for One Year, is Computed to Amount to about —	1332:	09:	08
The Produce of that Years Fiſhing, is ordinarily Eſtimated at, about —	2250:	00:	00
Conſequently The Neat Profit of the firſt Year, (all Charges deducted) will be — — — —	0917:	10:	04
Secondly. The After Yearly Charges for 20. Years (all Charges deducted) will be (*Communibus annis*) but —	0928:	19:	08
Conſequently the Neat Profit of each After Year (and ſo for 20. Years) will be *per Annum*, — — —	1321:	00:	04

All which may be made appear by the Particular Eſtimate following, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
THE Building of ſuch a Dogger or Buſs will Coſt about — —	0403:	10:	00
The Furniture, with Neceſſaries common to other Ships, *viz.* Victuals, *&c.*	217:	19:	02

The

The Nets, Tools, &c. Proper for a 12 Ms Fiſhery, *viz.* For Herring,	242:09:06		
		256:19:06	
The Hooks and Lines for Cod and Ling	014:10:00		0928:19:08
For both Fiſhings, Casks and Salt —— —— ——	221:00:00		
For Wages for 6 Months, or 24. Weeks for the Herring Fiſhing Seaſon	088:15:00		
For 7. other Months or 28. Weeks, for the Cod and Ling Seaſon —— ——	103:02:06	233:01:00	
For Wages, Gratuities, &c. at Land, for General Officers, &c. Yearly —— ——	041:03:06		

So

So the Total Charge of Building and Equipping one Buſs or Dogger for the firſt Year, will be, as above — —		1332:09:08

Whereof the 233 *l.* 10 *s.* above-mentioned is not disburs'd till return of the Veſſel.

The produce of this Veſſels Employment for one Year, is Ordinarily computed thus, viz.

One Hundred Laſts of Herrings, Each containing 10. Barrels, worth *de claro*	1000:00:00	
Twenty five Thouſand Cods and Lings, worth at leaſt *de claro* — — —	1250:00:00	2250:00:00
Out of which ſaid 2250 *l.* deducting the Charges of Building, &c. which Amounts, as above, to — — —		1332:09:08
The Neat produce thereof for the firſt Year, will be, as above — —		0917:10:04
The Next Years produce, computed at about — — — — —		2250:00:00
Out of which, deducting the ſame full charges (except for building) which Amounts to about — — —		0928:19:08
The ſtanding neat Yearly Profit for the ſaid 20. Years, will be (*per Ann.*) about — — — — — — —		1321:00:04

But

But ſuppoſing (for Round-reckoning) yet not admitting, That the 321 *l.* 00 *s.* 04 *d. per Annum* be ſtruck off, and deducted thereout, For Extraordinary Loſſes, Damages, Hazards and Expences, For Buildings, Ship-wrecks, Repairs, Ware and Tare, *&c.* There will ſtill Remain of Clear Profits, *per Annum*, for every ſuch Veſſel ——————————— 1000 *l.*

One half whereof were Sufficient Gain, For Encouraging the Undertaking: Yea one Quarter.

FINIS.